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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CÁRDENAS).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

December 7, 2021.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TONY CÁRDENAS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

LEAVING BEHIND AMERICANS MOST IN NEED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this week, we saw new data that revealed who is truly being harmed by President Biden's economic crisis. The short answer is that those who can least afford it are being left behind.

Last month, the U.S. economy added only 200,000 new jobs. This isn't

enough. It is not enough to sustain any sort of recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Because of this poor response and because of this poor showing, many industries lost workers, including manufacturers and retail stores. In November, labor force participation actually declined among those with less than a high school diploma or some college education.

Simply stated, the Biden administration's failures are leaving Americans behind at a time when the price of essential goods are skyrocketing. Instead of addressing the crises that liberal policies have created, Democrats are doubling down on the failed legislative ideas that threaten to raise the cost of gasoline and raise the cost of groceries. The costs of beef, vegetables, chicken, and pork are on the rise, and real wages have actually decreased during 7 out of the 9 months that Joe Biden has been in office.

This isn't effective governing, and this is not the way to get America back on track.

PROTECTING LONG-TERM CARE RESIDENTS TO DEATH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, once again, I rise to call for immediate action on H.R. 3733, the Essential Caregivers Act. It is our sacred duty to protect and serve the American people, and this bill is an opportunity for this body to fulfill that duty.

Over the course of this pandemic, thousands of our fellow Americans were left isolated in long-term care facilities. They were denied access to their friends and families.

Alone and often confused, many suffered from depression and didn't receive the medical care they so desperately needed. Family members were

forced to watch from behind plexiglass and webcams as their loved one's physical and mental health declined. Some even died frightened and alone because of the lack of care.

In one California facility, Nancy Klein's son, who had suffered from a massive brain hemorrhage 6 years ago and has been bedridden ever since, contracted pneumonia three times while in isolation. Later, he contracted COVID.

His mother asked: After all he has been through, don't you think he has done his time?

Yes. I think he has done his time.

Nancy's story and many others like hers are documented in the book "Protecting Them to Death," which was written by one of my great constituents, Karla Abraham-Conley, who lost her mother in a long-term nursing facility. I have shared some of the gut-wrenching stories from this book before, and I will continue to do so until the bipartisan Essential Caregivers Act is passed.

It is imperative that we, the elected Representatives of the American people, stick up for the American people. The Essential Caregivers Act would ensure the senseless, counterproductive policies that were put in place during the pandemic are never repeated.

The fearmongering led to situations where, as Veronica Myers put it, "fear of COVID-19 has put staff safety ahead of resident health, well-being, and safety."

Veronica's 70-year-old father lives in a nursing home in Arkansas but was not allowed to see his family because of the antiscientific procedures of the facility. Veronica added that lack of continuity and communication play a major role in the isolation of residents because basic care and best practices are less important now than COVID-19 mitigation.

Mr. Speaker, this is not how Americans care for their fellow citizens.

All across the country, from my home State of New York all the way to

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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